

individual. There are still some persons, whose minds are illuminated with the rays of science, and who study, and, I doubt not practice too, the precepts of virtue and religion. Several of this kind, says our author, have I seen in my travels, particularly an aged hermit, whom I fortunately met with, not many years since, in the celebrated mountain of Lebanon. To attempt a description of this famous mountain, would extend this tale to too great a length, suffice it, therefore to say, that the cedars for building the temple of Solomon, the most splendid structure the world ever saw, were brought from thence; but time has strangely changed the face of this country. The extensive forest of Lebanon, which contained such multitudes of spreading cedars are reduced to one single grove of about one mile in circumference, containing about eighteen large cedars, a considerable number of small ones, and a few pines.

While we were viewing the cedars, continues our author, an aged hermit approached us; and, after making some remarks on these famous trees, conducted us to the convent of Cannobine, built on the declivity of Lebanon, in the most retired and romantic situation that can possibly be conceived. It stands on the north side of a remarkable chasm, or hollow part of the mountain, at the bottom whereof

whereof runs a large current of water, which tumbles down the rocks in numerous cascades. The murmur of these falling streams, and the hollow sound of the wind among the trees, increase the solemnity of the place, and tend greatly to compose the mind, and inspire the soul with reflections worthy of its nature: both sides of this chasm are remarkably steep, and covered with trees of the most beautiful verdure, many of which being of the aromatic kind, render the air delightfully fragrant.

The church of this convent is a large grotto, and in one of the windows are three bells, which call the monks to their devotions; a favour allowed them no where else in the Turkish Dominions. The convent itself stands at the mouth of a large cave; and, except two or three rooms is wholly composed of subterraneous apartments.

After viewing every part of this sequestered retreat, the hermit conducted us to his cell, which stood to the margin of the same chasm, about a quarter of a mile from the convent: before the entrance of this homely mansion was a large spreading tree, and, on the right side a small stream, which had its rise at some distance above, in the side of the mountain, and here tumbled into the torrent at the bottom of the chasm. It is still the custom among the inhabitants of the East, to entertain